

NOTES ON THE LIFE HISTORY OF

DITYLUS QUADRICOLLIS LECONTE (OEDEMERIDAE)

Richard Guppy

During the winter of 1944-45 I found many larvae of Ditylus quadricollis LeC. in very old wet logs buried in the swampy ground. The wood was in this instance all red cedar, (Thuja plicata). I kept a good deal of this wood and on breaking some open the following October, found that most of the insects had completed their transformation. A few larvae remained, probably a younger batch, but I saw no pupae or tenereal adults.

It thus appears that the beetles complete their development during the late summer and remain inactive in their pupal cells over winter. This is a life cycle common to many species of Coleoptera. All my records of Ditylus quadricollis LeC. taken while active are for the month of May. Most were collected while running over swampy ground, or under logs in wet places. Evidently these beetles were intent on oviposition. Only one was found on flowers, cultivated spirea.

I have also been able to show that Ditylus spp. may remain in the larval stage over three years. During March 1946 I found one larva in a very wet, rotten fir log. Judging from its size, and from the season when the beetles ordinarily breed, it must have been at least a year old when found. It did not pupate until the summer of 1947. I obtained the adult recently, but no doubt owing to the pupa having been disturbed, it was deformed, with aborted elytra and is not determined. It may be in view of the different wood in which it was found, some other species, but probably there is little difference in the life history.

These larvae are soft white grubs, the development of the legs is similar to that found in common Scarabaeid larvae, but the abdomen is carried straight behind, and tapers nearly to a point.